	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/777,168	FURPHY
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Joseph A. Fischetti	3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *8/26/04*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *50,53-74 and 80-86*.

3. ☒ The drawings filed on *05 February 2001* are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

        Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Atty. Tung on 12/11/04.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-49 (CANCELED)

50.   (AMENDED)   A method for automatically processing transactions between a buying company and a selling company, comprising the steps of :

    (a) obtaining via a computer network purchase order data having at least one entry, the purchase order data including purchase order header information and purchase order detail information **having line items**;

    (b) obtaining via a computer network invoice data having at least one entry, the invoice data including invoice header information and invoice detail information **having line items**;

    (c) automatically comparing selected purchase order header information and corresponding selected invoice header information to identify a matched record having purchase order data and corresponding invoice data;

(d) **automatically** comparing **via a computer the** total cost of goods received from the matched record purchase order data and total cost of goods shipped from the matched record invoice data according to a predetermined tolerance;

(e) if the total costs are within the predetermined tolerance, then automatically providing for payment of invoices corresponding to the matched record invoice data;

(f) if the total costs are not within the predetermined tolerance, then electronically comparing selected purchase order ~~detail information~~ **line items** and selected invoice ~~detail information~~ **line items** according to predetermined rules;

(g) if the selected ~~information~~ **line item** comparison satisfies the predetermined rules, then providing for payment of ~~invoices~~ **the line item(s)** corresponding to the selected invoice ~~detail information~~ **line item(s)**; and

(h) if the selected ~~information~~ **line item** comparison does not satisfy the predetermined rules,

   (i) automatically notifying the buying company for resolution of **any** purchase order ~~data~~ **line item(s)** not matching invoice data; or

   (ii) automatically notifying the selling company for resolution of **any** invoice ~~data~~ **line item(s)** not matching purchase order data.

51.   (CANCELED)

52. (CANCELED)

53. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 50, wherein the computer network used to obtain purchase order data is a local area network.

54. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 50, wherein the computer network used to obtain purchase order data is a wide area network.

55. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 54, wherein the wide area network is the Internet.

56. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 50, wherein the computer network used to obtain invoice data is a local area network.

57. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 50, wherein the computer network used to obtain invoice data is a wide area network.

58. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 57, wherein the wide area network is the Internet.

59. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 50, wherein the purchase order data is stored in a database.

60. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 59, wherein the database is a central database.

61. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 50, wherein the invoice data is stored in a database.

62.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The method of claim 61, wherein the database is a central database.

63.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The method of claim 50, wherein the purchase order data and the invoice data are stored in a database.

64.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The method of claim 63, further comprising the step of providing for interaction with the database by at least one of the buying company or selling company.

65.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The method of claim 64, wherein the step of providing for interaction with the database is performed using a network interface.

66.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The method of claim 65, wherein the network interface comprises a web page.

67.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The method of claim 50, wherein the purchase order header information comprises a purchase order number, a client identifier, a vendor identifier, and a purchase order date.

68.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The method of claim 67, wherein the purchase order detail information comprises the purchase order header information and purchase order entries comprising a quantity ordered, an item identifier, a unit price, and a charge code.

69.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The method of claim 50, wherein the invoice header information comprises an invoice number, a client identifier, a vendor identifier, and an invoice date.

70.　　(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)　The method of claim 69, wherein the invoice detail information comprises the invoice header information and at least one invoice entry comprising a quantity shipped, an item identifier, and an extended price.

71.　　(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)　The method of claim 50, wherein the step of automatically comparing selected purchase order data and corresponding selected invoice data is computer-implemented.

72.　　(CANCELLED).

73.　　(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)　The method of claim 50, further comprising the step of facilitating the financing of accounts based upon the matched records.

74.　　(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)　The method of claim 73, wherein the facilitating step is the factoring of accounts receivable.

Claims 75-79 are cancelled.

80. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)　The method of claim 50, wherein predetermined tolerance is expressed as one of the following: a percentage of the total cost, a percentage of an absolute dollar figure, or a combination of both.

81. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)　The method of claim 50, wherein the predetermined rule comprises paying the lower of invoice cost and purchase order cost.

82. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The method of claim 50, wherein the predetermined rule comprises paying the lower of invoice quantity and purchase order quantity.

83. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The method of claim 50, wherein the predetermined rule comprises a dollar or percent tolerance amount to approve payment of the invoice or chargeback the difference.

84. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The method of claim 50, wherein the predetermined rule comprises of making payment decisions at the invoice and purchase order line level, by comparing item, quantity, unit cost and extended costs of all lines and making payment decisions at the line level.

85. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The method of claim 50, wherein the purchase order data includes the items and quantities of goods received.

86. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The method of claim 50, wherein the predetermined tolerance is from a tolerance consideration table, wherein data in tolerance consideration table is predetermined data for a plurality of clients wherein at least one entry from one client is different from at least one other client.

1. REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

a. Clear statement

Claim 50 is the sole independent claim in this application. None of the art of record discloses or suggests the method of claim 50 for automatically processing a purchase order against its associated invoice using a two step approach. The first step is an automatic payment step of the invoice using the total cost showing on each of the purchase order and the invoice and if those values are within a predetermined tolerance, the system automatically pays the invoice. The system further provides for a second tier test when the total cost of the invoice and the purchase order fail to match within a given tolerance. Here, the system automatically compares selected purchase order line items with selected invoice line items according to predetermined rules. If the involved line item comparison satisfies the predetermined rules, then only those particular lines items satisfying the rules for a given invoice are paid. Examples of the types of the rules controlling payment of the line items are set forth in the specification on pages 18-19. For those line items not satisfying the rule the method automatically either: i) notifies the buying company for resolution of those line items not satisfying the rules; or ii) notifies the selling company for resolution of those line items not satisfying the rules.

   b. How Claims Distinguish Over Closest Prior Art:

The closest Prior Art is the patent to Berlin et al 6006199. Berlin et al. disclose comparing the quantities rather than total cost of invoice and PO. Then, an automatic check for equality is made, with no allowance for a tolerance as is presently claimed. Moreover, there is no disclosure or suggestion of the system further providing for a second tier test when the total cost of the invoice and the purchase order fail to match within a given tolerance. The system does not automatically compare selected purchase order line items with selected invoice line items according to predetermined rules and does not, if the involved line item comparison satisfies the predetermined rules, pay on only those particular lines items satisfying the rules for a given line item. Nor is it disclosed or suggested of those line items not satisfying the rule i) notifying the buying company for resolution of those line items not satisfying the rules; or ii) notifying the selling company for resolution of those line items not satisfying the rules.

   Reference Citations:

Best U.S.: Berlin et al. Berlin et al. disclose comparing the quantities rather than total cost of invoice and PO. Then, an automatic check for equality is made, with no allowance for a tolerance as is presently claimed. Moreover, there is no disclosure or suggestion of the system further providing for a second tier test when the total cost of the invoice and the purchase order fail to match within a given tolerance. The system does not automatically compare selected purchase order line items with selected invoice line items according to predetermined rules and does not, if the involved line item comparison satisfies the predetermined rules, pay on only those particular lines

items satisfying the rules for a given line item. Nor is it disclosed or suggested of those line items not satisfying the rule i) notifying the buying company for resolution of those line items not satisfying the rules; or ii) notifying the selling company for resolution of those line items not satisfying the rules.

Best Foreign: WO 97/29445. WO 97/29445 discloses an invoice purchase order system which is based upon a third party honoring presentment of a letter of credit. Since the letter of credit is either honored or dishonored there is no alliance for tolerances as provided by the claims in the present application. Moreover, there is no disclosure or suggestion of the system further providing for a second tier test when the total cost of the invoice and the purchase order fail to match within a given tolerance. The system does not automatically compare selected purchase order line items with selected invoice line items according to predetermined rules and does not, if the involved line item comparison satisfies the predetermined rules, pay on only those particular lines items satisfying the rules for a given line item. Nor is it disclosed or suggested of those line items not satisfying the rule i) notifying the buying company for resolution of those line items not satisfying the rules; or ii) notifying the selling company for resolution of those line items not satisfying the rules.

Best NPL: *Office products firms begin test of computer orders* discloses emailing orders/invoices between participating companies but it is silent on the payment scheme. Thus, there is no disclosure or suggestion of a method for automatically processing a purchase order against its associated invoice using a two step approach. The first step is an automatic payment step of the invoice using the total cost showing on each of the

purchase order and the invoice and if those values are within a predetermined

tolerance, the system automatically pays the invoice. The system further provides for a

second tier test when the total cost of the invoice and the purchase order fail to match

within a given tolerance. Here, the system automatically compares selected purchase

order line items with selected invoice line items according to predetermined rules. If the

involved line item comparison satisfies the predetermined rules, then only those

particular lines items satisfying the rules for a given invoice are paid. Examples of the

types of the rules controlling payment of the line items are set forth in the specification

on pages 18-19. For those line items not satisfying the rule the method automatically

either: i) notifies the buying company for resolution of those line items not satisfying the

rules; or ii) notifies the selling company for resolution of those line items not satisfying

the rules.

References Cited but Not Relied Upon:

6006199 discloses if shipment notice list do not equal the quantities set forth within the

purchase order planned receipt list, the process passes the correction of discrepancies

between these two lists but involves a manual investigation and no automated

application of rules based payment system of line items is used.

6341265 discloses an insurance plan payment system that tests whether the claimant is

a beneficiary of an approved insurance plan and if so the server system performs any

desired claim checking or adjudication process to determine whether the claim

describes health care services that are approved for payment. If the claim is not in condition to be paid, the client system is notified of this result.

4491725 discloses a medical care claim redemption whereby differential between a service fee and the claim reimbursement is handled in either of two ways. First, the differential can be paid by the patient in the credit card fashion or credits the differential to the service provider's account and debits the patients account.

5903878 discloses an originator validating the transaction by comparing a list generated by the processor of the originator listing the UTID associated with each transaction generated by the originator and notifying the transaction administrator of the results. The transaction is granted or rejected by the transaction administrator based on the comparison results. If the originator does not validate the transaction, the transaction administrator rejects the transaction which invalidates the transaction. There is no subsequent reconciliation of the transaction as with the tolerance feature and the item by item rules application.

6487285 discloses using a telephone number reservation initiated by reseller and transmitted to wholesaler using a purchase order transaction set followed by a due date reservation initiated by reseller and forwarded to wholesaler using the purchase order transaction set. No method for automatically processing a purchase order against its associated invoice using the above described two step approach is disclosed or suggested.

6554183 discloses authorized merchant payment system wherein only approved vendors are paid via a pre-arranged agreement.

6343275 discloses a seamless integrated database management system allowing the seamless sale of almost any item or service using a computing model.

6317737 discloses a database management system which stores data and allows users to manipulate that data through a connection to that database management system. The data retrieval server allows clients to retrieve and view portions of the data in the database management system, e.g., a data warehouse where vast amounts of data is consolidated and fed to smaller data warehouses (called data marts).

6507813 discloses a system for comparing header information on electronic documents.

6601057 discloses a web site development center wherein a billing interface is invoked which automatically stores credit per DXC or per DXC writer. No method for automatically processing a purchase order against its associated invoice using a two step approach is disclosed or suggested.

6009414 discloses an automated accounting file that includes a plurality of records having a record format including a user identifier, used CPU time, I/O volume and the other necessary information. The amount of money that the user is charged is determined based on this and other necessary information.

6470490 discloses a header information reading system.

5568627 discloses a header verification system and method.

20020052812 discloses an invoice payment system for agents whereby specific account invoices are made available to the agents for tracking payments by the customer.

20020082990 discloses payment of invoices in total and invoice must be approved by a designated person.

5970475 discloses an administrator establishing the nature of goods that the user is may order and the spending limit therefor. An authorized limit is set for the user by the administrator.
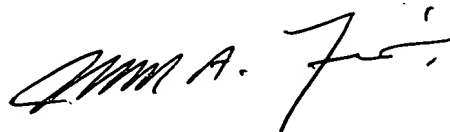
5991750 discloses a merchant based credit card in which only certain types of purchases are automatically denied.

6360211 discloses automatically assigns an invoice a status ranging from pay to do not pay. The entire invoice is either paid or not paid.

6385595 discloses user directed look and feel of invoices but the data remains fixed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to PRIMARY EXAMINER Joseph A. Fischetti at telephone number (703) 305-0731.